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## **Local Official Takes Action in Lansing**

*Plymouth Township Police Chief Thomas Tiderington and Senator Patterson  
Work to Achieve Local Control*

**LANSING** – Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, and Plymouth Township Police Chief Thomas Tiderington testified before the Transportation Committee today regarding Senate Bill 123.

Senate bill 123 allows a county road commission, the township board, and the director of the Department of State Police to unanimously determine appropriate speed limits on county highways. Currently, only the county road commissions and the Department of State Police can decide speed limits on a county road in any given township.

“As a township police chief, Chief Tiderington knows first hand the benefits my bill will bring to all the townships in the state of Michigan, including Plymouth Township,” said Patterson. “Chief Tiderington was a key witness in assisting the committee with their decision to recommend passage of this bill by the Senate.”

“This bill opens the door for townships to have a voice in setting speed limits,” said Patterson. “As the State Senator for 8 townships and 8 cities, I promised to equally represent my constituents. With this bill, I am doing just that.” Under current laws, cities possess the ability to set their own speed limits while townships do not. Senate bill 123 will not alter the process in which cities establish their speed limits; it allows townships to have a hand in their process.

According to Plymouth Township Police Chief Thomas Tiderington, “This bill will make a good system even better. Those most knowledgeable about specific road dangers are the people that use the roads every day. Therefore, they should have input on setting speed limits.”

In the Senate, the bill is co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 12 legislators. The bill was supported by all 5 committee members and will be sent to the Senate Floor for a vote. The Michigan Township Association and the County Road Association of

Michigan supported the bill. The Michigan Department of State Police has taken a neutral position on the bill.

Patterson is the Chairman of the Technology and Energy committee, Vice Chairman of the Health Policy and the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs committees, and a member of the Judiciary committee. He was recently appointed by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema to serve on the Legislative Council.

As Senator of the 7<sup>th</sup> District, Patterson represents the City of Northville, Northville Township, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Sumpter Township, Huron Township, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Trenton, Grosse Ile Township, Gibraltar and Rockwood.

**Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Patterson and Plymouth Police Chief Tom Tiderington testifying before the Senate Transportation Committee is available on the Senate Photowire, located at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/>.**